



SHORE TIES – GTMO

The Family Newsletter of PSU 308

Issue #2, Volume 2 – August 1, 2007

LIFE AT GTMO... Your Coastie is becoming much acquainted with the island by now and finding out all the things to do in their off time. Some days are busier than others it all depends on what kind of mission JTF has for us to complete, but your Coastie really takes it in stride and works the long hours when needed with no complaints and enjoys their off time: fishing, diving, snorkeling or many other things to keep them busy. Many of the guys have been collecting Conch shells that they find while diving or snorkeling. Once the shell is found they give it to a Third Country National (TCN), (who are very prevalent here on base due to their cheap labor, 2 to 3 dollars per hour) they clean it out, put a coating over it to make it shine. Some of our guys are cleaning them as well and doing a very good job. They are really nice once completed, I am sure you will see them soon, if not call your loved one and have them send you a Conch shell!

On the Fourth of July everybody really had a good time at a Command sponsored cook out, where everybody enjoyed hamburgers, Hotdogs barbeque sausage and fresh fish caught right here in GTMO Bay, by the Officers on a work day, oh I mean on their off time! After the cook out everybody went their own direction to view the fireworks display put on by the Morale Welfare and Recreation (MWR). This was quite a show and really displayed what the Fourth of July is all about, being Patriotic and remembering all the Soldiers and Sailors that gave their lives so we can live in the land of the free.

KUDOS TO THE CREWS... Several of your Coasties volunteered their off time to help the local Sea Cadet Command teach and train several of the Cadets basic Seamanship rules; knot tying, Boat Handling, Man Overboard Drills, water familiarization, and much more to get them acquainted with the Coast Guard and what the Coast Guard mission is. The Naval Sea Cadet Corp focuses on instilling the core values needed for good citizenship and develop the leadership qualities they will need to become adult leaders of society. The members of PSU 308 really enjoyed working with the Cadets and some have even volunteered to help out with the Cadets monthly training classes.

AND MORE KUDOS... BM3 Lloyd Heflin and PS1 Chris Ryle were nominated for JTF's Trooper of the Quarter. BM3 Heflin won the division for Junior Trooper of the Quarter which is E-5 and below and PS1 Chris Ryle came in second for Senior Trooper of the Quarter which is E-6. These guys were nominated within our unit and went up against all nominees from each unit that comprises JTF. Each member goes in front of a board compiled of six E-9's, which is the highest enlisted rank in the services. At this board they are to present their Military bearing and professionalism to the highest extent and be prepared to answer questions of military heritage, military operations, U.S. laws and history. The winner, BM3 Heflin will receive a Joint Service Achievement Medal for his performance of winning his class, a big CONGRATS to BM3 Heflin!

SURVIVING SEPARATION... This information is provided from the JTF-GTMO Command Chaplain's Office. If you have children, visit the following websites that can give complete guides to dealing with separation and reunion:

www.militaryhomefront.dod.mil, www.guardfamily.org, www.guardyouth.org,

www.militaryonesource.com. If you have children, there are some basic behaviors that can be expected. 1) Some children get angry about their parent being gone. Toddlers and preschoolers may act out like their parent is a stranger. They do not understand duty or mission. 2) Elementary school children and Teenagers may understand, but show anger or fear by "acting out."

Loved ones should take the following actions:: **Action Item #1** – Communicate, Communicate, Communicate **Action Item #2** – Don't Forget Special Occasions **Action Item #3** – If you have children, visit the websites listed above: **Action Item #4** – Accept and Share Your Feelings. Talk about the good and the bad about your time away from your loved ones. Really listen to each other.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR EXPECTING PARENTS!!! BM3 Joshua Smith's wife, Amanda Smith, is scheduled for a Caesarian Section on August 1st, 2007. PS3 Terrell Bernoudy's Wife, Latonyn Bernoudy, is scheduled for a Caesarian Section in August, just no date yet. Keep these families in your prayers; look in the next issue of Shore Ties for an update.

COASTIE RECOGNITION...

- PSU PIN(s) : BM3 Brian Garrett and PS3 Justin Rodgers
- GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL(s): MK1 Barney Ingram
- CERTIFIED LEVEL 1 COXSWAIN(s): BM3 Joshua Smith
- CERTIFIED BOAT CREW MEMBER(s): MK3 Shelton Franklin
- JTF TROOPER OF THE QUARTER: BM2 Lloyd Heflin

HAPPY BIRTHDAY... July Birthday's: MK3 Jessie Brouillette

FAMILIES NEED TO KNOW...

- Mailing Address: Maritime Security Detachment
Rank / members name
JTF-GTMO / USCG, PSU 308
APO, AE 09360
- Contact your Ombudsman for family emergencies.
- Any pay issues, contact your Ombudsman and the unit at 228-868-1224.

That is it for this edition of SHORE TIES – GTMO, **Thank you and PSU 308 appreciates your support.** Until next time...